

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR B.C. AGRIFOOD PRODUCERS

The governments of B.C. and Canada as well as local organizations and institutions provide B.C. producers with various resources to support business planning, financing and skill development opportunities that encourage success in the agriculture industry. Several of the listed programs are supported through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

ASSISTANCE, INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- **Advisory Services** connects prospective or established farmers with an Agrologist at the Ministry of Agriculture for advice, technical support, and referral services. Contact agriservicebc@gov.bc.ca to get in touch with an Agrologist today.
- **Agriculture Management Institute's (AMI) tool "Making a case for growing new crops"** is an online calculator that takes into consideration input costs, yield measurements (bushels, cwt, kg, etc.), budget plans and expected yields to provide producers with a baseline plan of what producing the crop will cost. <http://takeanewapproach.ca/growingnewcrops/#/>
- **B.C. Farmland Lease Workbook** helps guide potential lessors and lessees in developing a lease agreement. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/farm-management/farm-business-management/farmland_lease_workbook_final.pdf
- **B.C. Good Agricultural Practices Guides** provides a whole-farm approach covering all aspects of food safety of crop and livestock production. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/food-safety/good-agricultural-practices>
- **B.C. Guide for Agricultural Lease Agreements** provides basic information on leasing, along with sample leases and web links to lease documents online to get started. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/farm-management/farm-business-management/first-nations-agriculture/guide_for_agriculture_lease_agreements_bc.pdf
- **B.C. Institute of Agrologists** has over 1,300 practicing Agrologists, who are professionals in areas including agriculture, food production, environment, and resource management. Find an Agrologist: <https://www.bcia.com/about-bcia/find-an-agrologist>
- **B.C. Land Matching Program** provides land matching and business support services to new farmers looking for land to farm as well as landowners interested in finding someone to farm their land. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/land-matching>
- **Canadian Association of Farm Advisors** helps family farm businesses solve their unique challenges. <https://www.cafanet.ca/advisor-listing/>
- **Enterprise budgets** provide information on production costs and returns to quickly evaluate a farm business. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/business-market-development/agrifood-business-management/running-a-farm-business/enterprise-budgets>
- **Farm Diversification through Agri-Tourism Guidebook** provides step-by-step guidance to farmers who are interested in engaging in agri-tourism. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/farm-management/farm-business-management/business-planning-guides/agritourism_guide_2017.pdf
- **Farm Management Canada** provides business management information, webinars, tools and resources to position Canada's farmers for success. <https://fmc-gac.com/>
- **Growing Your Farm Enterprise** is a supplemental guide that has tips on how to grow a farm business once established. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/farm-management/farm-business-management/growingyourfarm.pdf>

- **Production Guides** provide production, pest management and best practices on crop production. Check out the Animal Production Guides for business and health requirements, practices and standards for livestock production.
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/crop-production/crop-production-guides>

FUNDING PROGRAMS

- **B.C. Agri-Business Planning Program** provides specialized business planning support to enable existing B.C. producers and processors to make more informed decisions or complete disaster recovery planning. Eligible applicants can access up to \$5,000 for individuals and \$30,000 for groups for business planning services from a Qualified Business Consultant.
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/agri-business-planning-program>
- **Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program** is designed to accelerate the pace of innovation to enhance the sector's competitiveness, sustainability, productivity and resiliency. The program provides cost-shared funding to support the development and adoption of promising new products, practices, processes and technologies.
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/canada-bc-agri-innovation>
- **Environmental Farm Plan and Beneficial Management Practices Programs** support existing farm operations to complete agri-environmental risk assessments and provide cost-shared project funding to increase agricultural sustainability.
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/environmental-farm-plan>
- **Farm Adaptation Innovator Program** supports collaborative research, demonstration, and knowledge-sharing to promote adoption of effective farm practices, approaches and technologies to support farm-level adaptation to climate change.
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/farm-adaptation-innovator-program>
- **Traceability Adoption Program** supports B.C. agrifood and seafood businesses to increase awareness and implementation of traceability systems, practices, infrastructure and technologies.
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/traceability-knowledge-transfer>
- **BC Agricultural Production Insurance Program** helps producers manage their risk of crop losses caused by hail, spring frost, excessive rain, flooding, drought, etc. To learn more about the benefits of buying production insurance coverage:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/redirect-production-insurance>
- **Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada** offers a number of programs and services that provide support to Canadian businesses.
<http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/programs-and-services/?id=1362151577626>
Programs of potential interests include:
 - **Agriculture Youth Jobs Initiative** is a cost-share opportunity for farm operators to provide internships for post-secondary graduates and high school students interested in working in the agriculture industry.
 - **Canadian Agriculture Loans Act** is a program designed to help increase the availability of loans to farmers and agricultural co-operatives.
 - **Advances Payments Program (APP)** is a federal loan guarantee program which provides agricultural producers with easy access to low-interest cash advances. Call their offices directly to inquire about adding additional products to the rates list.
 - **AgriStability** protects agricultural producers against declines in their net farming income due to market conditions, production loss or increased costs of production. Payments are made if a producer's current year margin falls more than 30% below their reference margin.
 - **AgriInvest** helps manage small income declines and provides support for investments to mitigate risks or improve market income.

For more information on Government-led events, programs, resources or services available to support New Entrants, please visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/business-market-development/agrifood-business-management/starting-a-new-farm> or contact AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca